

**Accession number:** 1992-24/9t

**Description:** Single sheet of paper, written on both sides. Scribal transcript with autograph heading. Verse. Probably 1773.

**Transcript:** This was written for Sign[io]r Millico as a grateful tribute to his friend, at his Benefit, & part of it sung with a harp [note in Garrick's hand]

Thyrsis begins

Arise my Rural Friends arise  
See o'er the blushing Skies  
The Sun has spread his Golden beams  
Arise, enjoy the balmy Breeze  
Which softly whispers thro' the Trees  
To change for real Bliss your dreams

Recit:

I call you Swains to Join the Lay  
Which Gratitude inspires, this day,  
To all the Worthies of this Isle,  
Who on my trifling Labours Smile;  
My heart this tribute must pour forth  
And sing Benevolence and Worth!  
Assist me Friends, my soul is fir'd,  
Britons accept the Lays you have inspir'd!

Chorus

O Harmony, do thou impart  
Kindred Joys to ev'ry heart,  
Sweet the Notes our Bosom move  
Notes of Gratitude and Love.

*Reverse:*

Recit:

But what is this that meets my Eye,  
A Lyre! And sent me from the sky!  
Some Bounteous God, who knew my wants,  
To me his heav'nly Succour Grants  
O may these strings my Grateful heart reveal  
And sweetly breath the transports that I feel

Rondeau;

Sweet Isle of Britain, all Islands excelling,  
For Bounty, and Honour have made it their dwelling,  
Tho' far from thy dear Native Land,

Some Stranger thou shalt not repine  
For Britain will stretch out her hand  
And the Blessings She has will be thine

O Sweet Isle &c

But what in return to bestow  
The Song of Thanksgiving we'll raise  
Our hearts shall with Gratitude flow  
And flow to the end of our days.

O Sweet Isle &c

Chorus

While we breath our praise shall rise,  
And British Worth shall pierce the Skies.

Air

When I with Sighs to distant Climes shall roam,  
Can Italy my loss restore?  
O no – 'Tis happiness that makes the home,  
And this is now my Native shore.

Chorus

While we breath &c

Grand Chorus

Publick Virtue Bliss Secures  
Happy Isle, that bliss possessing  
Glory, Freedom, Wealth is yours,  
Ever Bless'd! And ever Blessing!

**Notes** Aileen Osborn, 'The Literary Material in the Hereford Garrick Papers', M. Phil thesis, University of Birmingham, 1999, 207-210. Previously unknown. Knapp 443. No other manuscript. Lloyds Evening Post 26 Feb – 1 March 1773.

**Giuseppe Millico**, an Italian soprano castrato composer and singing teacher performed opera throughout Europe. In 1772 he came to London. He composed half a dozen operas, several cantatas and numerous arias and duets, often with harp accompaniment. His works were published individually and in collections and were widely circulated in manuscript. [[Osborn, 210]